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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 03/06526A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 F17C13/04 F16K1/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 F17C F16K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 161 348 A (TEPSA BRIAN) 21 November 1985 (1985-11-21) abstract; figures page 7, line 32 -page 12, line 19	1-3, 6-9, 17, 19
Y	DE 84 02 594 U (DITTBRENNER) 28 June 1984 (1984-06-28) page 4; figures	18 4, 5, 10
X	FR 1 116 274 A (PETITDIDIER ROGER) 7 May 1956 (1956-05-07) the whole document	1-3, 6, 7
A	EP 1 154 179 A (OBEROESTERREICHISCHE FERNGAS A) 14 November 2001 (2001-11-14) the whole document	4, 5, 10
		-/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

17 November 2003

Date of mailing of the International search report

23.12.03

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 233 775 A (EIDSMORE PAUL G) 26 August 1987 (1987-08-26) the whole document ----	4, 5, 10
X	US 5 570 729 A (MUTTER HEINZ) 5 November 1996 (1996-11-05) abstract; figures column 5, line 21 -column 9, line 54	11-13, 19, 20
A	----	14-16, 21-23
X	US 5 551 490 A (KOUNTZ KENNETH J ET AL) 3 September 1996 (1996-09-03) the whole document ----	11
X	US 5 653 269 A (MAGIN JAMES A ET AL) 5 August 1997 (1997-08-05) the whole document ----	19, 20

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-10,17,18

A valve for closing a container and for enabling the container to be filled, said valve comprising a housing with an inlet and outlet ports, a closing member and at least one valve member which in a first position allows fluid communication and in a second position prevents fluid communication wherein said valve member is brought into and maintained in said first position only if a static pressure difference across said valve member is below a pre-determinable first threshold AND wherein said valve member has force-generating means adapted for providing a balancing force to said valve member and for bringing said valve member into said first position when said filling condition is fulfilled AND wherein the valve member has an internal part comprised in said valve which can be operatively connected with an external part not comprised in said valve for bringing and maintaining said valve member into said first position AND wherein said internal part has a first magnet or a magnetisable element providing a balancing force for bringing said valve member into said first position when said valve is brought into proximity with an external part having a second magnet.

1.1. Claim : 19

A method for filling a container having a valve according to one of the claims 1 to 10 with a fluid from a fluid source, comprising the steps of connecting the valve to said fluid source and controlling the delivery pressure of said fluid at an inlet port of said valve such as to maintain the static pressure difference across a valve member of said valve below a predetermined or predeterminable first threshold.

2. Claims: 11-16,20-23

A system and a method for filling a container wherein the pressure of the fluid supplied to the container is maintained below a pre-determined or pre-determinable first threshold.

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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